

Apple Grafting Workshop Set for Moorhead, MN on May 2, 2014

by Randy Nelson, April 7, 2014

Articles & Publications

"Apple Grafting Workshop" is set for Friday, May 2, 2014 at the Family Service Center, 715, 11th St. N., Moorhead, MN in meeting room 4. Our work shop will start at 1:00 pm and end at 4:00 p.m.

What is grafting? "The seed from a Haralson apple will produce an apple tree, but it will not produce a Haralson apple tree. Likewise, the seed from a Honeygold apple will not produce a Honeygold apple tree. In other words, fruit trees cannot be reproduced "true" to the original cultivar from seed. They can only be reproduced by grafting. Grafting describes any of a number of techniques in which a section of a stem with leaf buds (scion) is inserted into the stock of a tree (understock). Grafting is useful however, for more than reproduction of an original cultivar. It is also used to repair injured fruit trees or for topworking an established tree to one or more different cultivars." (adapted from Leonard B. Hertz. 2009. *Grafting and Budding Fruit Trees*. UMN Extension WW-00532).

Scion wood will be provided for the workshop. However, we encourage you to bring your own apple scion wood from a tree that you would like to propagate. The scion wood needs to be collected now when it is dormant. It should be about the size of a pencil in length and width and should have at least 2 nodes present. It can be stored in a moist, not damp, paper towel and placed in a sealed ziplock bag in your refrigerator. A word of caution, learn if the apple you are interested in propagating has an active plant patent. Propagation of patented plants is a violation of patent laws unless one has a license agreement with the patent holder.

Workshop fee is \$20 which includes three potted apple understocks (growing in one gallon pots) and refreshments.

Our workshop presenters are Dr. Todd P. West, Associate Professor of Horticulture, Woody Plant Improvement Program Director, NDSU, Fargo and Mr. Gregory Morgenson, Research Specialist, Woody Plants, NDSU, Fargo.

This workshop is sponsored by Randy Nelson, UMN Extension, Clay County and Todd Weinmann, NDSU Extension Service, Cass County. We have a limited number of seats available for this workshop so please call or email Randy Nelson at 218-299-7338 or nels1657@umn.edu to reserve a seat. Workshop brochure can be found at: http://z.umn.edu/applegrafting

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If you have questions regarding this article or ideas for future articles please call me at the University of Minnesota Extension office, Clay County at 218.299.5020, 1.800.299.5020 or email me at

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<u>nels1657@umn.edu</u>. More information on horticultural or agricultural topics can be found by visiting the <u>Extension</u>, <u>Clay County</u> web site or by visiting my <u>blog</u>.

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